



The lesson of September 11 is indisputable: government had not only failed to act as a guardian of security and protection but had actually been the primary agent in creating insecurity and exposure to risk, and, moreover, did not achieve secure justice once the crime had been committed.

—FROM *THE MYTH OF NATIONAL DEFENSE*

With eleven chapters by top libertarian scholars on all aspects of defense, this book, edited by HANS-HERMANN HOPPE, represents an ambitious attempt to extend the idea of free enterprise to the provision of security services. It argues that "national defense" as provided by government is a myth not unlike the myth of socialism itself. Defense services are more viably privatized and replaced by the market provision of security.

From the introduction:

"Even aside from day-to-day security risks, the reality of terrorism and its resulting mayhem has demonstrated the inability of government to provide adequate security against attacks on person and property. The lesson of September 11 is indisputable: government had not only failed to act as a guardian of security and protection but had actually been the primary agent in creating insecurity and exposure to risk, and, moreover, did not achieve secure justice once the crime had been committed.

"However, this was not the lesson that was drawn from the affair. Instead, the political elite successfully exploited public fears to vastly increase government spending, central credit inflation, bureaucratic management, citizen surveillance, regulation of transportation, and generally wage an all out attack on liberty and property.

"Meanwhile, US foreign policy pursued in the aftermath became more aggressively interventionist, violent, and threatening (the US refused even to rule out the employment of nuclear weapons against enemy regimes) than it had been before, thereby increasing the number of recruits into the ranks of people who are willing to use extreme violence as a means of retribution.

"In the same way that government intervention in times of peace can generate perverse consequences in markets that do not tend toward clearing, in times of war, military intervention can thus have the effect of harming the prospects for peace and security and bringing about a permanent state of violence and political control. Truly, the political affairs of our time cry out for a complete rethinking of the issues of defense and security and the respective roles of government, the market, and society in providing them.

The Myth of National Defense: Essays on the Theory and History of Security Production
by Hans-Hermann Hoppe (ed.) 464 pages (hardcover). \$25.00
Purchase online at WWW.MISES.ORG.





Hans-Hermann Hoppe

*What if the conventional theory is wrong? What if it turns out that the private sector can provide national defense, not in the sense of contracting with private companies to build bombs at taxpayer expense, but really provide it to paying customers at a profit? The argument of the explosive new book edited by Hans-Hermann Hoppe and published by the Mises Institute, is precisely that it can. If you have never before considered the idea, or considered it but wondered if you were crazy, you need **The Myth of National Defense: Essays on the Theory and History of Security Production.***

—LEWELLYN H. ROCKWELL, JR.,
PRESIDENT, MISES INSTITUTE

THE MYTH OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

TABLE of CONTENTS

Introduction by Hans-Hermann Hoppe

The Problem of Security; Historicity of the State and "European Realism"

by Luigi Marco Bassani and Carlo Lottieri

War, Peace, and the State by Murray N. Rothbard

Monarchy and War by Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn

Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation or Monopoly?

by Bertrand Lemennicier

Is Democracy More Peaceful than Other Forms of Government? by Gerard Radnitzky

Mercenaries, Guerrillas, Militias, and the Defense of Minimal States and Free Societies

by Joseph R. Stromberg

Privateering and National Defense: Naval Warfare for Private Profit by Larry J. Sechrest

The Will to be Free: The Role of Ideology in National Defense by Jeffrey Rogers Hummel

National Defense and the Theory of Externalities, Public Goods, and Clubs by Walter Block

Government and the Private Production of Defense by Hans-Hermann Hoppe

Secession and the Production of Defense

by Jörg Guido Hülsmann